

JAN 31 2007

Art Unit 2627  
Serial No.: 10/816,294

Reply to Office Action of: 11/07/2006  
Attorney Docket No.: K35R1871

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] In certain embodiments, the antiferromagnetic layer 44 is adjoined to the seed layer 42 by depositing the antiferromagnetic layer 44 onto the seed layer 42. In certain such embodiments, the crystal structure of the antiferromagnetic layer 44 in proximity to the seed layer 42 is adapted to magnetically decouple the antiferromagnetic layer 44 from the seed layer 42. In certain other embodiments, the read sensor 10 comprises an exchange break layer 84 between the antiferromagnetic layer 44 and the seed layer 42, as schematically illustrated by Figure 2, which ["]magnetically decouples the antiferromagnetic layer 44 from the seed layer 42 by "breaking" or reducing the exchange coupling between the two layers. The exchange break layer 84 of certain embodiments comprises a nonmagnetic material (e.g., NiFeCr). The exchange break layer 84 of certain embodiments has a thickness of approximately 10 Angstroms. In certain embodiments in which the seed layer 42 comprises nickel-iron alloy doped with chromium, the exchange break layer 84 is formed by increasing the chromium doping in the top portion of the seed layer 42 so as to reduce the exchange coupling between the antiferromagnetic layer 44 and the seed layer 42.